

Southeast PTO Minutes

September 14, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:04

Attending: Erin Ballou, Andrea Lennon, Julie Brown, Kimberly Clark, Jessica Higham, Jana MacDonald, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Tia Willour, Jennifer Novick, Patty Braithwaite, Celine Demers Schiffler, Dave Delaney, Michele Boskovic, Monique Brown, Margaret Morrison, Suzanne Kelly, Tiffany Boykin, Michael Kelly, Ruth Washington

Fred Baruzzi – Superintendant of Schools

The town is considering what to do regarding the aging elementary school buildings. Some considerations on the table are: renovating four schools, evaluating the three elementary schools to determine their needs; adding a library media center to each.

- Option 1: Repair existing schools - \$25 million
- Option 2: Renovate three elementary schools with limited additions - \$51 million
- Option 3: Close one school and put library media centers in other two - \$45 million
- Option 4: Build single school for all Pre-k to fourth grade students. – 21 million

Building committee determined Southeast site is big enough to accommodate new school. This fall the building committee will look at all options and will present to Town Council and Board of Education. January will have architect present options, in spring will put to vote in Spring 2010. As of now, the building committee has made no decisions. All information will be available at public meetings. Some staff adjustments would need to be made to maximize efficiency.

Virginia Walton – Town Recycling Coordinator

Oversaw an EPA grant to retrofit busses and reduce idling. Campaign in place to target schools to remind parents not to idle.

Walton asked if the PTO could do something to help. The following ideas were put forward:

No idle pledges

Support materials from town recycling

Reminder in the fall newsletter

Maybe Green Thumbs could arrange for kids to make signs for school, parents, and parking lot.

Principals Report:

Hired a new teacher for resource 1 and 2. She is from Hawaii and a former native of Connecticut.

There are 239 students enrolled this year:

Pre-K: 13 and 16 students

K: 14 and 15

1st: 14, 14 and 15

2nd: 13, 14 and 14

3rd: 16, 16 and 17

4th: 15, 16 and 17

Parents hour in October will be with Barbara Casey from iparentnet.org

This year's school theme is TEAM (**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore) and will have projects throughout the year.

Action plans: Academic achievement - all students to grade level by grade three

Character development

School Health and safety – more doors on swipe card and healthy snacks for birthdays.

President's report:

Andrea Lennon reported on the fall carnival; Karen Mitlitsky is running it including food games, dunk tank and dance contest. The silent auction is still seeking donations. Bake sale items can be dropped off the night before or early in the morning on Saturday. The kids raffle (aka – kid's table) is also receiving donations.

- Possible silent auction items suggested by Jessica Higham include: parking spot of the month, which Norma will need to approve.

- Andrea Lennon will check with Karen for food permit and send an email to Bill Hammond. Kim will send a flyer this week for the Covenant Soup Kitchen.

Vice President's Report:

The possibility of a meet and greet for parents was discussed, including ideas regarding potluck dinner or dessert or maybe ice cream social. Event, after date is chosen will be held rain or shine indoors from 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Note: After the meeting concluded, Tia Willour and Jennie Novick came forward to plan this event.) Norma stated that past popular events included family game night and family movie night. PTO will consider organizing more family social events throughout the school year.

Our photographer from last year is unavailable, so Life Touch will be doing student photos on 10/29.

The Family Skate is on hold.

Magnets are on sale for \$2 in the front office

Wrapping paper fundraiser running until 10/2

Spring bulbs fundraiser until 9/21

A reminder is required to send in directory forms. The directory is a work in progress.

Treasurer's Report:

A budget is necessary including expenses vs. real cost. Adjustments can be made for next month's meeting. A line item to be added for year book.

Patty Braithwaite will spearhead learning about the Stop and Shop school benefits program. A box tops flier will go out from Kimberly Clark and Staples Savings was brought forward. Andrea will research it and it will be revisited at October meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Jennifer Novick.

Motion to second by: Patty Braithwaite.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Novick

Next meeting October 5, 2009